

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01

L-02 PM-03 /026 R

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PM/ISO:COL FLEMINGS

EUR/CE:HWILGIS

EUR/NE:CFLOYD

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R 080053Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T STATE 029340

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MOPS, NATO, US

SUBJECT: CRESTED CAP 75

1. EXERCISE CRESTED CAP IS THE ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT OF FOUR USAF TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRONS (TOTAL -- 96 AIRCRAFT) FROM THE US TO THE FRG. IT FULFILLS A COMMITMENT UNDER THE 1967 TRILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UK AND THE FRG UNDER WHICH THESE AIRCRAFT WERE DUAL-BASED IN THE US. CRESTED CAP 75 IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL-MAY 1975.

2. REQUEST YOU APPROACH APPROPRIATE HOST-GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PROPOSE THAT CRESTED CAP 75 BE RESCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1975. IN PRESENTING
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OUR PROPOSAL YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WE CONTINUE TO

ACCEPT OUR OBLIGATION UNDER THE 1967 TRILATERAL AGREEMENT. SINCE NATO SCHEDULES EXERCISES BY CALENDAR YEAR AND CRESTED CAP 75 WOULD REMAIN WITHIN CALENDAR 1975, THE REQUIREMENT TO RETURN THE FOUR DUAL BASED FIGHTER SQUADRONS TO GERMANY EACH YEAR WOULD BE SATISFIED. YOU SHOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT WE PLAN TO CONDUCT CRESTED CAP 75 WITH FOUR COMPLETE SQUADRONS.

3. RESCHEDULING THE EXERCISE TO SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER HAS THE FOLLOWING ADVANTAGES:

A. CRESTED CAP 75 FORCES WOULD AUGMENT THE FLYING ASSETS

AVAILABLE FOR NATO (AFCENT) EXERCISE COLD FIRE (15-19 SEPT). WE UNDERSTAND BOTH MOD BONN AND CINCENT HAVE PROPOSED TO EXPAND COLD FIRE INTO A MAJOR NATO CENTRAL REGION AIR-GROUND EXERCISE.

B. CRESTED CAP 75 FORCES COULD PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISES IN CONJUNCTION WITH US EXERCISE REFORGER (OCT-NOV).

C. PARTICIPATION IN THESE EXERCISES WILL PROVIDE EXCELLENT TRAINING FOR CRESTED CAP FORCES WHICH WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE IN THE APRIL-MAY PERIOD.

D. THE DELAY WILL ALLOW US TO FUND THE EXERCISE OUT OF THE FY 76 BUDGET, THEREBY RELIEVING SERIOUS FY 75 BUDGET PROBLEMS.

4. EMBASSIES MAY USE POINTS A, B, AND C IN PARA 3 IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS.

5. REQUEST YOU REPORT HOST-GOVERNMENT VIEWS SO THAT WE MAY CONSIDER THEM IN OUR PLANNING. IF RESCHEDULING IS APPROVED, WE WILL INFORM NATO THROUGH CHANGE TO NATO EXERCISE SCHEDULE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CRESTED CAP 75, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE029340
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COL RTHOMPSON:MEM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750047-0159
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750259/aaaacbjz.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CRESTED CAP 75
TAGS: MOPS, US, GE, UK, NATO
To: BONN LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006